

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05800 010610Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

L-03 /024 W

----- 064851

R 010450Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5373

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5800

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: DISMISSED CASUAL-HIRE GUARDS

REF: VIENTIANE 5751 (DTG 251038Z SEP 75)

1. SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTEL REMAINS ESSENTIALLY QUIET. HOWEVER, ON SEPTEMBER 29 EMBASSY ADMIN AND SECURITY OFFICES RECEIVED FOUR TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ONE KHAMPENG, AN OFFICIAL OF LAO FEDERATION OF LABOR (LFL), ASKING IN INSISTENT FASHION THAT THREE LOCAL GUARD-SUPERVISORS APPEAR SOONEST AT LFL OFFICES. PURPOSE WAS NOT MADE CLEAR, BUT WE ASSUME IT WAS FOR FURTHER "DISCUSSIONS" OF CASE OF TERMINATED GUARDS. WE DECLINED THESE REQUESTS, SAYING THAT WE CONSIDERED MATTER SETTLED WITH NINE GUARDS AND WERE PREPARED TO SETTLE WITH OTHER FOUR ON SAMEBASIS, I.E., PAYMENT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 13 UPON SIGNATURE OF QUIT-CLAIM.

2. AT SAME TIME, GUARD-SUPERVISORS PICKED UP RUMORS THAT DISSIDENT GUARDS AND LFL OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE THEM ARRESTED IF THEY APPEARED. RUMORS WERE SUFFICIENT TO ALARM GUARD-SUPERVISORS, ONE OF WHOM IS NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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SIDERING FLEEING TO THAILAND AND ALL OF WHOM READILY

ACCEPTED OFFER OF A COUPLE OF DAYS' ADMINISTRATIVE
LEAVE.

3. THERE WERE MORE CALLS IN SAME VEIN SEPTEMBER 30.
THEREFORE POL COUNSELOR SAW MFA ATTACHE DE CABINET
SOUKTHAVONE KEOLA AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 30 TO REPORT
THESE DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH WE CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE
HARASSMENT OF LAO EMPLOYEES. SOUKTHAVONE AGREED THAT
ANY APPROACH FROM LFL TO AN EMBASSY ON A MATTER OF
POLICY SHOULD BE CHanneLED THROUGH MFA/PROTOCOL. POL
COUNSELOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED SOUKTHAVONE AGREED,
AND EMBASSY WOULD SO INFORM KHAMPENG OR ANYONE ELSE
FROM ENTITY OTHER THAN MFA WHO APPROACHED EMBASSY ON
SUCH A SUBJECT.

4. POL COUNSELOR ADDED THAT ANY INQUIRIES SANCTIONED BY
MFA WOULD BE ANSWERED BY AN AMERICAN OFFICER, SINCE
IT IS AMERIANS WHO SET PERSONNEL POLICY FOR LAO
EMPLOYEES, NOT OTHER LAO.

5. COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT BY THIS MEANS WE WILL
SUCCEED IN COOLING OFF THE LFL AND PERHAPS IN LAYING
THIS ISSUE TO REST FOR GOOD. OVER THE LONG RUN,
HOWEVER, WE MUST EXPECT GROWING PRESSURES ON OUR
LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND SHALL ATTEMPT TO SPARE THEM
CONTACT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND SEMI-OFFICIAL ENTITIES
ON CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS, SECURITY GUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI05800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750339-1024
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751094/aaaadgfl.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 5751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISMISSED CASUAL-HIRE GUARDS
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006